

Rewald neighbor asks for \$805,400

By James Dooley
and Walter Wright
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An \$805,400 claim — the largest yet — was filed yesterday in bankruptcy court against jailed investment counselor Ronald R. Rewald's company by his next-door neighbor on Kalanianaʻaʻole Highway, Elizabeth Halvorsen.

And Rewald is attempting again to negotiate his way out of prison so he can help a bankruptcy trustee find what's left of his company's assets.

James Wagner, attorney for the trustee, said last night that he doesn't think there are any assets left to find, but wouldn't object to Rewald's being escorted to the office long enough to look in the files.

But Rewald and Wagner both will have to persuade the prosecutor's office that such a visit should be allowed. And Rewald has yet to convince either the bankruptcy trustee or the prosecutor that he should get out on the terms he wants.

Meanwhile, two of Rewald's in-laws, Nicholas and Lorraine Imp, also filed a claim against

his company this week, seeking recovery of a \$52,400 investment.

Halvorsen's \$805,400 claim was filed by her personally, although a considerable amount of money from a trust established by her husband was also invested with Rewald's firm, according to court testimony last week.

Attorneys for all parties concerned — including Rewald — said yesterday that if Rewald were to get out to examine his company's files, it would only be for a limited period of time and under heavy guard.

"The idea of Rewald being released without escort has not even crossed my mind," said Deputy Prosecutor Peter Carlisle, "and if the merest inkling sneaks in, I am going to stamp it out. Mr. Rewald is not going to Shangri-La."

Carlisle was referring to the \$10 million bail set for Rewald by Circuit Judge Robert Won Bae Chang because of Chang's concern that Rewald might otherwise flee to "Shangri-La, wherever that is."

Rewald is being held on theft. See Rewald on Page A-4

Let the Investor Beware

The bizarre case of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham and Wong Inc. that has been dominating the headlines here is only the latest in a series of collapses of financial firms that has beset the community in the last few years.

While there seem to be major differences between the failure of Ronald Rewald's investment firm and the earlier plights of several industrial loan companies, they have at least one thing in common: their investors got stung.

This has happened despite government regulations and laws designed to protect the public against misrepresentation and imprudent handling of funds. Out of these unfortunate experiences may come some improvements in the laws; the insurance protection for depositors in industrial loan companies was recently strengthened.

But no amount of legislation is going to provide fool-proof protection. The warning "Let the buyer beware" is equally true when rendered as "Let the investor beware." There will always be people ready and able to gull the gullible.

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Incidents Hike Speculation About CIA Claim

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attorney for Hayes, and asked if they had any objection to the CIA's request to go through the files again yesterday. They said they made no objection because they knew the matter would go before a judge and a judge would approve the CIA's request anyway.

Hart and Wolff also said that Kindschi, a consultant with Rewald's company, told them that he had not filed the theft complaint against Rewald, but that the police had.

Hart said Kindschi was upset that the complaint had been filed and initially had wanted it withdrawn. But for unknown reasons, Kindschi did not ask that the complaint be withdrawn.

The Star-Bulletin could not locate Kindschi for comment.

ANTHONY GRANITO, head of the police department's white collar crime unit, said Kindschi had "filed" the complaint by virtue of having made a statement to police about losing \$200,000 in Rewald's company.

Granito said Kindschi was picked as a complainant because of his CIA background and his statements that linked Rewald directly to alleged fraud and theft by deception. He said police knew Kindschi "would make a good

witness."

Granito also pointed out that Kindschi did not ask that the complaint be withdrawn.

Another aspect of the case that bothers Rewald's attorneys is the testimony of company employee Julie Suda during a hearing before U.S. Judge Martin Pence this week in which she said monthly wire deposits of \$10,000 to \$200,000 came in to the company.

Hayes testified that there were no records for those deposits.

Hart and Wolff point out that Suda had no reason to lie about the deposits, but Hayes said this morning that Suda was simply confused by attorneys while she was on the witness stand.

Hayes disputed claims that records of those deposits might have been removed by CIA officers, by saying there were no financial documents in the records the CIA officers went through.

BUT THE MOST intriguing aspect of Rewald's connection with government officers is his apparent role in the "rescue" from alcoholism of retired Gen. Hunter Harris, former Air Force commander of the Pacific from 1964 to 1967 and a friend of Rewald's. Harris, at one point, was to become a consultant for Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

Several military officers, including Gen. Arnold Braswell, who also is an acquaintance of Rewald's and was considering becoming a company consultant, were members of an "intervention committee" formed to seek help for Harris' alcoholism. In 1981, the group succeeded in having Harris admitted to a state hospital in California, but was later released.

Col. Peter Sloan, an aide to Gen. Braswell today confirmed that Braswell was part of a "informal group" trying to help Gen. Harris "in regard to his health and welfare."

In June, he was admitted again to another hospital in Texas for further treatment.

Harris, contacted yesterday at the Texas hospital, denied that he is an alcoholic and said the "intervention committee," except for Rewald, had been formed to "run him down."

"The whole crew got together and tried to brand me as an alcoholic," he said.

He was particularly angry at retired Capt. Ned Avery, a consultant to Rewald, who took part in effort to get Harris hospitalized. Avery testified in court last week that he had participated in a "sensitive" operation concerning a military officer, but did not disclose Harris as that officer.

SOURCES SAID the government was concerned about Harris' alcoholism because of his knowledge of secret government information.

Harris had only glowing things to say about Rewald, however.

Harris met Rewald in the summer of 1981 through a business acquaintance at Hawaii National Bank, the bank where some \$17 million in Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong's funds were deposited. Harris also was a director at the bank at one time.

"I was quite impressed with him and his credentials," Harris said of Rewald.

Harris said he turned over some shares of Korean oil securities to Rewald for him to handle, but that they were still in his name and would produce money when the wells eventually were drilled.

Trustee Hayes, however, said he came across the oil royalties and that they are in the name of Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

While Harris was hospitalized in California in the fall of 1981, the "intervention committee" met in Rewald's offices, where Rewald told Braswell that he would handle Harris' affairs, according to Harris' associates.

Rewald's 'CIA' Claim Explored

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Speculation Is Aroused

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Ronald R. Rewald's association with high-ranking military officers and a former CIA official, as well as the deposit of large amounts of money into Rewald's company for which there are no records, continues to raise speculation about Rewald's claim that he was associated with the intelligence community here.

Some incidents that have come to light, which raise questions about a possible connection between Rewald and the CIA, are:

— Rewald's participation in a "rescue operation" with high-level military officers to help a retired, four-star Air Force general suffering from alcoholism gain treatment in a Mainland hospital.

— The CIA's continued interest in the files of Rewald's bankrupt investment company, Bishop, Baldwin, "Rewald, Dillingham & Wong.

— Charges that Jack Kindschi, former head of the CIA office in Hawaii, did not actually file the

criminal complaint which in part led to Rewald's indictment by the Oahu Grand Jury on theft charges.

— Lack of records to support testimony by a company employee that large "wire deposits" of money came into Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong monthly.

THOMAS HAYES, trustee for the bankrupt company, acknowledged this morning that CIA officers from Washington went through the company files again yesterday and removed one sheet of paper. Hayes would not say what the document was.

Government officials with national security clearance were called in after Rewald's attorney disclosed Rewald's assertion that there may be some classified materials in the files. FBI and CIA officers went through the files last week and when they were finished, the files were turned over to Hayes.

Peter Wolff and Brook Hart, Rewald's attorneys, said they were contacted by Don Gelber.

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